

Thinking Ahead With Dr. Martin

"Every college must know what it is trying to do; it must have a well-rounded program; it must know where it is going and how it proposes to get there. That involves a process of co-operative effort. You can't get a program by calling a president to the college and having him bring one out of his hat or his head. If you are going to have a program you must first of all gather the information and suggestions that are necessary to its construction. After this, the next step is to talk over this material thoroughly and sort it out and in this way find what is most significant for the particular purpose in mind."

Dr. Andrew B. Martin thus outlined in a chapel service the situation into which he has come as president. Alumni everywhere seem eager to know of his thoughts concerning the University; so it is with pleasure that Tauy Talk brings to you several excerpts from his speeches. Continuing:

"We are now in the midst of this process. There are already a number of discussion groups on the campus. I welcome them greatly. I thought, for myself however, the best approach would be to contact the Student Council, recognizing them as being fairly representative, and with them go over the problems that we thought ought to be discussed.

"We are now doing this and we have come to a few conclusions. When we get through with these problems, we are going to bring them with some resolutions before this body here and we will ask you to thrash them out for yourselves so that you can make a real contribution towards their solution.

"We will gather from this student body what your attitude is and what you want to see done. Then we will give the faculty a chance to discuss the matter. When we have done all that we can in this way and obtained all

the reactions, we will bring it all together finally and try to construct our program on the basis of all the results. When such a program is put together, it will be something that we will all be interested in. And it will be big enough to challenge everyone of us. It won't be something that I have said we must do. It will be something that we have all agreed together is the thing that should be done.

"Now you know that there are two or three types of government for a country and there are two or three possible types of government for an institution. We in America don't believe in any form of dictatorship. We believe our country should be governed with the consent and cooperation of the governed. That is my ideal of administration everywhere, whether it is at home, college, or church.

"Now, of course, in a school of this kind, it always goes without saying that the great inspiring purpose of the Christian college is to be found in Christian teaching, our purpose cannot be anything else but Christian. We are here to teach and learn Christianity. We are here to teach Christianity deliberately as well as to express it by our personal influence and to study and discuss it and live it on the campus so that Christianity may come to mean more to us, so that we may have a more cultured and informed attitude.

"We do not seek to impose ideas just because we would like to be Christian. We don't want to say: 'You must accept this.' We are not trying to be any kind of a barrier in anybody's way. We believe in more discussion and not less. We believe in the opinion of all.

"The trouble with religion on the campus is that we have simply allowed ourselves to drift into whatever religious activities happened to develop. It is a reflection of the religious life of our

communities. Religion in many of these communities from which we come is in a very unsatisfactory condition. There is a rather backward attitude to the great questions of life and solution of religious problems. When you come to college there is nothing to change that and religion on the campus simply reflects the situation outside. That is one reason why you have so many competing organizations right here at Ottawa.

"I am not saying that all the organizations on this campus should dissolve. As we discuss this together some organizations may feel that they have to sacrifice their own identity to the good of the whole. This is what I am getting at: I think that you will be convinced that having merely competitive groups is not good enough. There should be one religious organization on the campus and this should have control of all the religious life at the University.

"We should recognize religion on the campus as one of the major concerns of life. You may study Latin and say at commencement: 'That's over', but you can't do that with religion because it is definitely a part of life that you have to meet all the time. We want to try to understand it, study it, get down into it and see what it means. We want to show the folks back home that we believe Christianity isn't something to dabble in; it is the most serious business of life.

"A definition of a university or college must be gathered around the point of its purpose, its idealism, what it is aiming at. A school must know where it is going and what it is trying to do. Ottawa University is going to have a future just in so far as it has a purpose and it is going to get somewhere, insofar as it knows what it is trying to do. It must be a collective personality with a purpose."